

# TOWN OF HERNDON

*Enriching the Quality of Life and Promoting a Sense of Community*



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **HERNDON POLICE DEPARTMENT VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEM SAVES TIME, MONEY IN MAGISTRATE PROCESS**

Herndon, VA (April 7, 2010) – A video conferencing system acquired by the Herndon Police Department (HPD) to facilitate communications between members of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force is proving efficient and effective in serving another function as well: by linking electronically to the Fairfax County Magistrate Office.

The system, installed in January and paid for entirely through grant funding received by the gang task force, enables Herndon police officers as well as citizens (with officers' assistance) to obtain arrest warrants without having to drive the 34-mile roundtrip to the magistrate's office at the Fairfax Adult Detention Center in Fairfax. To date, more than 50 arrest warrants have been obtained through the system.

"Through the task force grant, we recognized an opportunity to purchase a system that meets not only the communications needs of the task force but the very specific requirements of hosting a video magistrate operation as well," said Herndon Police Chief Toussaint E. Summers, Jr. "The system has already proven itself by saving officers the time and expense of traveling to Fairfax to process warrants that are easily and readily obtainable electronically."

HPD purchased the Polycom system, the only system approved for video magistrate services in the Commonwealth of Virginia, for \$11,442. The entire amount was paid for via a grant provided by the Bureau of Justice Assistance to the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force.

The Town of Herndon was incorporated by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia on January 14, 1879. Located in western Fairfax County, Herndon is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest town in the Commonwealth and is home to more than 23,000 citizens. Businesses located within the Town of Herndon, which range from high tech enterprises to entrepreneurially-owned establishments, employ approximately 25,000 people. *Business Week* Magazine has named Herndon one of the nation's "Best Affordable Suburbs," and *Money* Magazine has ranked Herndon among its "Best Places for the Rich and Single."

For more information, visit the town's Web site at [www.herndon-va.gov](http://www.herndon-va.gov).